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11TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA



NEWS RELEASE

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DAVIS NAMED CHAIRMAN OF
GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE

Washington, DC – Congressman Tom Davis (R-VA-11th) released the following statement tonight on his appointment as Chairman of the House Government Reform Committee:

“I am honored and grateful that my colleagues have given me the opportunity to chair the Government Reform Committee for the 108th Congress.

I commend outgoing Chairman Dan Burton for his years of service to the Committee, and look forward to working with him in the coming weeks and months to ensure a smooth transition.

We Republicans were elected as reformers. We pledged to come to Capitol Hill and work to streamline the federal government; to root out waste, fraud and abuse in government programs; and to protect the rights and interests of the American taxpayer. The Government Reform Committee is ground zero when it comes to accomplishing these goals.

If our aim is to locate the biggest sources of waste in government, we need look no further than the hundreds of billions of dollars we spend each year on acquiring needed goods and services, or on ineffective, duplicative government programs. But too often we look for fat as though it came wrapped in neat, tidy packages; too often we cut off fingers and toes.

The reality is that waste is marbled throughout the bureaucracy. It rests within regulations that never should have been written, in filling out forms that should not have been printed, in procurements so complex that our under-trained contracting officers cannot properly manage them.

I plan to build on the legacy of reform legislation I passed out of this Committee as a Subcommittee chairman: the D.C. Control Board Act, the National Capital Revitalization Act, the D.C. College Access Act, the Federal Information Security Management Act, the E-Gov Act, the Critical Infrastructure Information Act. And I want to continue to exercise the type of oversight that results in enhanced the efficiency of government programs and, in turn, savings for the taxpayer.

The challenges and opportunities facing this Committee are significant, and I look forward to hearing from all members of the House about crafting a constructive agenda for the 108th Congress. We need to advance the President's Freedom to Manage agenda. We need to create a performance-oriented civil service structure so that talented, committed Americans are drawn to public service and remain here. We need to closely monitor large dollar federal contracts to make sure we're getting what we want, how we want it, and maximizing the taxpayers' dollar. We need to tear down the stovepipe structures that have characterized government technology systems, to improve cross-agency communication and lower costs. We need to take the next steps in the District of Columbia, addressing the challenges that remain in the post-Control Board era. The Nation's Capitol can and should be a source of national pride.

I look forward to working with the Administration, House Leadership and Members of both parties on a reform agenda that benefits all Americans."

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